

REMARKS

The office action of May 3, 2005, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Standal.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claim 1.

The present invention is drawn to a paint conduit that conducts paint to a spray gun. The conduit must be cleaned when different colors of paint are successively used. In the present invention a hose is arranged in the interior of the conduit and is connected at one end to a pressurized fluid source via a pressurized fluid intake. Both ends of the hose are fixed at opposite ends of the conduit so that the hose extends axially in the conduit. In this way it is possible to squeeze out the paint between the outer surface of the hose and the inner surface of the conduit along the entire length of the conduit. The hose is radially expandable so that the geometry of the hose can be changed depending on the pressure of the fluid in the hose. During

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a cleaning process the hose is subjected to a high internal pressure. The hose expands beginning at the end connected to the pressure fluid source and forces the paint out of the conduit until the, at the end of the cleaning process, the hose is completely against the inner surface of the conduit. When low pressure is present the hose has a smallest volume and frees the interior of the conduit so that paint passes through the conduit normally. During normal operation the hose remains fixed to the conduit at both ends so that the hose is ready when needed for cleaning paint out of the conduit.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that Standal discloses a pipeline drain apparatus for an irrigation system. This apparatus has a pipe with a plurality of outlet openings that are spaced axially along the pipe. Inside the pipe is a sleeve with an opening extending in the axial direction of the pipe. The sleeve covers the outlet openings when in an operating position. Inside the sleeve is a gas that expands or is compressed depending on the water pressure in the pipe. When the pipe is empty the

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sleeve is filled with gas and then closed. If water is now passed through the pipe the sleeve is compressed because the water pressure is greater than the gas pressure. The water in the pipe then exits via the outlet openings. If the irrigation system is to be moved to another location the water supply is turned off at a valve. The water pressure is thus reduced inside the pipe and the pressure in the sleeve is thus greater than the pressure in the pipe surrounding the sleeve. The volume of the sleeve increases and forces the water from the pipe through the outlet openings. Inside the pipe between individual of the outlet openings are blocking elements that are acted upon during watering by a pressure so that they are pressed against the inside of the pipe. In this way a non-uniform distribution of water in the pipe due to gravity is prevented.

Standal does not disclose a hose arranged in the interior of a pipe as in the presently claimed invention. Instead, Standal uses a bladder 17 that changes its geometry depending upon water pressure applied externally to the bladder. A "bladder" and a "hose" are not the same thing. A bladder is filled with gas, closed and remains filled. The hose of the present invention is filled and emptied. Also, in Standal only one end of the bladder 17 is fixed in the pipe. Pursuant to the present invention one end

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of the hose is held by the pressure fluid intake. In Standal the pressure fluid inlet 20 is separate from the clamp 18 that holds the end of the bladder in the pipe. In the present invention the second end of the hose is fixed to the conduit. Standal does not disclose any fixing of the bladder other than the clamp 18 at one end.

Standal operates on a different principal than the present invention since Standal does not pass a gas through the bladder but instead maintains a fixed pressure in the bladder. The bladder does not have a second end connected to the conduit as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

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Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 3, 2005.

By: *F. Kueffner*  
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Date: August 3, 2005